

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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FOR

Transitional Modular Italian Charm Link

FILED WITH

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to charm links for bracelets and the like and, more specifically, to a charm link that has a linkage means to enable a charm link to fasten to at least one other charm link that is significantly smaller than itself.

Conventional charm links known in the art typically fasten to one another via a hook and post linkage assembly. The charm links usually comprise a base housing with a slidable, spring-loaded charm face having substantially U-shaped ends, one of which is a linkage hook having an end that is inserted through a linkage recess defined by a linkage post on the adjacent charm link. The standard sizes of charm links common in industry are 13 mm and 9 mm but the linkage hook of the 13 mm charm link is too large to be inserted through the linkage recess of a 9mm charm link. Conversely, the linkage hook of the 9 mm charm link may be inserted through the linkage recess of the adjacent charm link

but has too much play to remain in the desired centered position and tends to slide along the linkage post.

The present invention seeks to overcome the shortcomings of the prior art by providing a 13 mm transitional modular Italian charm link wherein the linkage hook and/or linkage recess are designed to accommodate the mating component of at least one standard 9mm charm link.

The transitional modular Italian charm link of the present invention is provided with three different configurations to offer the user a plurality of options for using more than one size charm link when putting the bracelet together. A first configuration has a linkage hook sized for a 13 mm charm link and the linkage post and recess of the transitional modular Italian charm link sized to conform to the linkage hook of a 9 mm charm link. A second configuration has the transitional modular Italian charm link having the linkage post, recess and hook all conforming for attachment to the respective mating components of a 9 mm charm link. This configuration is particularly advantageous because not only can a 9 mm charm link be secured to either side thereof but both sides will also accept attachment to other like 13 mm

transitional modular Italian charm links. A third configuration provides a transitional modular Italian charm link having a linkage hook for 9 mm attachment and a linkage post and recess for a 13 mm charm link.

### Description of the Prior Art

There are other linking devices designed for jewelry.

## SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a transitional modular Italian charm link that will allow the user to selectively fasten different sized charm links to one another as desired.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a 13 mm transitional modular Italian charm link that can fasten to a 9 mm charm link and have a 13 mm charm link fastened thereto.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a transitional 13 mm charm link that can fasten to a 13 mm charm link and can have a 9 mm charm link fastened thereto.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a 13 mm transitional modular Italian charm link that can fasten to a 9 mm charm link and have a 9 mm charm link fastened thereto.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a transitional modular Italian charm link that is simple and easy to use.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a transitional modular Italian charm link that is inexpensive to manufacture and operate.

Additional objects of the present invention will appear as the description proceeds.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages will appear from the description to follow. In the description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which forms a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. These embodiments will be described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. In the accompanying drawings, like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views.

The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is best defined by the appended claims.



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

In order that the invention may be more fully understood, it will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top view of the three configurations of the present invention and their respective applications;

FIGURE 2 is a top view of the transitional post charm link connected to a 9mm charm link and 13mm charm link in the expanded position;

FIGURE 2A is a top view of the transitional post charm link connected to a 9mm charm link and 13mm charm link in the static position;

FIGURE 3 is a top view of the transitional hook charm link connected to a 9mm charm link and 13mm charm link in the expanded position;

FIGURE 3A is a top view of the transitional hook charm link connected to a 9mm charm link and 13mm charm link in the contracted position;

FIGURE 4 is a top view of the transitional post and hook charm link connected to a two 9mm charm links;

FIGURE 4A is a top view of the transitional post and hook charm link connected to a two 9mm charm links

FIGURE 5 is a top view of the present invention in the contracted position depicting the internal tension spring element;

FIGURE 5A is a top view of the present invention in the expanded position depicting the internal tension spring element; and

FIGURE 6 is a cross sectional side view of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCED NUMERALS

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, the figures illustrate the Transitional Modular Italian Charm Link of the present invention. With regard to the reference numerals used, the following numbering is used throughout the various drawing figures.

- 10 Transitional Modular Italian Charm Link of the present invention
- 11 13mm charm link
- 12 9mm charm link
- 13 base member
- 14 charm face
- 16 bias means
- 18 linkage means
- 22 bottom plate of 13
- 24 sidewall of 13
- 26 retaining post of 13
- 28 locking recess of 13
- 30 13mm linkage post

- 34 9mm linkage post
- 36 9mm linkage hook
- 38 13mm linkage hook
- 40 retaining hook
- 42 tension spring
- 44 transitional linkage hook
- 46 transitional linkage recess
- 48 transitional linkage post
- 50 transitional hook charm link
- 52 transitional post charm link
- 54 transitional hook and post charm link

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The following discussion describes in detail one embodiment of the invention (and several variations of that embodiment). This discussion should not be construed, however, as limiting the invention to those particular embodiments, practitioners skilled in the art will recognize numerous other embodiments as well. For definition of the complete scope of the invention, the reader is directed to appended claims.

FIGURE 1 is a top view of the various configuration of the present invention **10**. The present invention is a transitional modular Italian charm link **10** that can be fastened to various combinations of 13 mm charm links **11** and 9 mm charm links **12**. One configuration provides a transitional post charm link **52** having a 9 mm transitional linkage post **48** for accepting the linkage hook of a 9 mm charm link **12** and a linkage hook **38** for connecting to a 13 mm charm link **11**. Another configuration provides a transitional hook charm link **50** having a transitional linkage hook **44** that fastens to a 9 mm charm link **12** and a linkage post **30** for attaching to a 13 mm charm link **11**. The third, and most versatile, configuration provides a transitional hook and post charm link **54**

having a transitional linkage hook **44** and a transitional linkage post **48** for connecting 9mm charm links **12**. The transitional hook and post charm link **54** not only can accept a 9 mm charm link **12** on each side but also can also accept other 13 mm transitional hook and post charm links **54** on either side.

FIGURE 2 is a top view of the present invention **10** attached to a 13 mm charm link **11** and a 9 mm charm link **12** in an expanded position. Shown is the linkage hook **39** of the transitional post charm link **52** secured to the linkage post **30** of a 13 mm charm link **11** and the transitional linkage post **48** of the transitional post charm link **52** retaining the linkage hook **36** of the 9 mm charm link **12**.

FIGURE 2A is a top view of the transitional post charm link **52** of the present invention **10** attached to a 13 mm charm link **11** and a 9 mm charm link **12** in a contracted position.

FIGURE 3 is a top view of the present invention **10** attached to a 9 mm charm link **12** and another 9 mm charm link **12** in an expanded position. Shown is the transitional linkage hook **44** of the transitional post and link charm link **54**

secured to the linkage post **34** of a 9 mm charm link **12** and the transitional linkage post **48** of the transitional post charm link **52** retaining the linkage hook **36** of the 9 mm charm link **12**.

FIGURE 3A is a top view of the present invention **10** attached to a 9 mm charm link **12** and another 9 mm charm link **12** in a contracted position.

FIGURE 4 is a top view of the present invention **10** attached to a 13 mm charm link **11** and a 9 mm charm link **12** in an expanded position. Shown is the transitional linkage hook **44** of the transitional hook charm link **50** secured to the linkage post **34** of a 9 mm charm link **12** and the linkage post **30** of the transitional hook charm link **50** retaining the linkage hook **38** of the 13 mm charm link **11**.

FIGURE 4A is a top view of the present invention **10** attached to a 13 mm charm link **11** and a 9 mm charm link **12** in a contracted position.

FIGURE 5 is a top view of a transitional post charm link **50** of the present invention **10** in the contracted position depicting the internal tension spring **42** element. A tension spring **42** maintains the charm face **14** in the closed position over the base **13** until a stronger opposing bias is placed thereagainst.

FIGURE 5A is a top view of a transitional post charm link **50** of the present invention **10** in an expanded position depicting the compression of the internal tension spring **42** element. The tension spring **42** is maintained between the charm face **14** and the retaining hook **40** residing along the bottom plate **22** of the **13** and provides a bias means **16** to urge the charm face **14** to remain in the closed position as it slides between the two sidewalls **24**. The tension spring **42** places opposing forces against the retaining hook **40** of the charm face **14** and the retaining post **26** of the base member **13**.

FIGURE 6 is a cross sectional side view of the present invention **10** depicting the tension spring **42** which places opposing forces against the retaining hook **40** of the charm face **14** and the retaining post **26** of the base member **13**.



While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.